

NATIONAL SECTION OFFICE  
212 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10020



ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

AK198B

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Dear Patricia Derian:

On July 17, 1979, at 9:30 am in the Gold Room, 2168 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., a ceremony will be held to present prominent American women with symbolic scarves from the relatives of some of the more than 15,000 persons who have "disappeared" without a trace for political reasons in Argentina since the 1976 military coup. We invite you to receive a scarf, embroidered by a mother or a grandmother with the names of their "disappeared" children or grandchildren. They will be presented by a representative of the thousands of relatives who continue to appeal in vain to the Argentine authorities about their missing loved ones.

These scarves have been made by a group of more than 2,000 women known as the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo", who every Thursday met in silent protest in front of the Casa Rosada to press for further information about their relatives. These mothers have been harassed, arrested, been now forbidden access to the Plaza, and some have even "disappeared" themselves as a result of their efforts. Representing no political organization or party, they ask only the support of other women and mothers who can bring attention to their plight and join in their demand that their children be accounted for.

They write in a letter of March 21, 1979, "We are a group of mothers, representative of thousands, who suffer anguish for lack of news about our disappeared relatives.. We have exhausted all legal resources in our country. The authorities persist in keeping ominously silent about the whereabouts of our kidnapped relatives. There are hundreds of "disappeared" children, innocent victims of this savage and indiscriminate repression which has been carried out over the past three years... There are also many children who were forced to witness the torture of their parents..."

The scarves will be presented to prominent women in America in hope of bringing sufficient pressure to bear on the Argentine authorities to establish the whereabouts of the disappeared. We urge you to come and receive a scarf. If you are unable to attend, please send a telegram of support for the occasion and we will send you a scarf.

Sincerely,

82 D103  
Box 17404

Aileen Adams

Wendy T. Turnbull

Francesca S. Jessup

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience, men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, color, ethnic origin, sex, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and the death penalty in all cases without exception and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), UNESCO and the Council of Europe, has cooperative relations with the Organization of African Unity (Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees). Amnesty International was the recipient of the 1977 Nobel Prize for Peace.

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